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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of Security Council resolution 2104 (2013), in which the Council requested that I continue to inform it of progress in implementing the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and to bring to its attention any serious violations of the 20 June 2011 Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area (S/2011/384, annex).

2. The report provides an update on the situation in Abyei and on the deployment and operations of UNISFA since my previous report of 17 May 2013 (S/2013/294). In addition, it provides an update on progress in the implementation of the additional tasks mandated to the Force under Security Council resolutions 2024 (2011) and 2104 (2013) with respect to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

II. Security situation

3. The security situation in the Abyei area remained generally calm, but unpredictable, owing to tensions between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities, exacerbated by the 4 May incident that resulted in the killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief, Kuol Deng Kuol, and the proliferation of small arms and the continued absence of local Government institutions, particularly the Abyei Police Service and other law and order local institutions. In addition, approximately 120 to 150 personnel of the Sudan Oil Police Force remained in the Diffra Oil Complex, in violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement and Security Council resolutions 1990 (2011), 2031 (2011), 2046 (2012), 2047 (2012), 2075 (2012) and 2104 (2013).

4. Following the 4 May incident that resulted in the killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief, the probability of intercommunal violence between the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities increased. Members of the Misseriya community living in Abyei town and surrounding areas, fearing reprisal attacks by the Ngok Dinka, fled and moved north of Goli village (approximately 35 km from Abyei town).

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the Monitoring Mechanism to conduct ground verification from its headquarters in Kadugli. Concurrently, preparations are ongoing for the establishment of the initial operating capability in Kadugli and Gok Machar after the end of the rainy season, in October, with two full companies. The deployment of the remaining two companies to the sector headquarters in Buram (South Darfur, the Sudan) and Malakal (Upper Nile State, South Sudan) will depend on progress that can be made in the establishment of the sector headquarters of the Monitoring Mechanism during the rainy season.

29. The configuration of the UNISFA military component in all three sectors is based on its conflict prevention and mitigation strategy, as well as the location of the Sudan Armed Forces and Sudan People's Liberation Army outside the boundaries of the Abyei Area. The southern sector headquarters has been relocated from Agok to Athony, while the central sector headquarters has been relocated to Dokura, following the completion of construction works at those locations.

30. During the reporting period, UNISFA redeployed its troops in accordance with its rainy season concept of operations. In the northern sector, the battalion relocated its troops from Tajalei and Um Khariat to its headquarters in Diffra. In the central sector, troops from Noong and Donguoup were redeployed to their battalion headquarters in Dokura. In the southern sector, troops from Marial Achak, Arik, Leu, Colognal and Arik were relocated to Athony and Agok. The Force also increased air patrols in those areas. UNISFA team sites at Tajalei and Marial Achack, consisting of military observers, were relocated to Banton. The Um Khariat team site was relocated to Todach, and the Shegei and Alal team sites were relocated to the UNISFA Abyei headquarters.

31. There are still 11 United Nations police officers deployed to UNISFA, including one Senior Police Adviser. The police component continued to support and advise the Head of Mission and UNISFA troops on public order management, crime analysis and community security issues within the Abyei area. The police personnel deployed in Abyei town and Agok monitored security groups of citizen volunteers and tribal justice mechanisms.

VIII. Mission support

32. UNISFA continued to consolidate and expand camp facilities and services to provide hard-walled living and office accommodation in locations where its troops are deployed within the Abyei Area, including company operating bases, temporary operating bases and staff accommodation. The absence of critical infrastructure, including poor road and air connectivity and a lack of warehousing facilities continued to impede its efforts.

33. The mission continued to upgrade roads to enable access to major troop deployment sites during the rainy season, although the pace of works was affected by protracted delays in obtaining supplies of laterite. UNISFA has also worked with its new rations contractor on the construction of a rations and food supplies warehouse in Abyei.

34. In May, the mission commenced weekly flights from Abyei to the sector headquarters of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism in Gok Machar. The former temporary headquarters of the Monitoring Mechanism in

Assosa, Ethiopia, was closed and its stores and equipment redeployed to other sites operated by the Mechanism in Gok Machar, Malakal and Buram.

IX. Observations and recommendations

35. The public administration and rule of law vacuum in Abyei continues to pose a serious threat to the maintenance of security in the area. This also deters displaced communities from returning. I therefore call upon the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to agree upon the immediate establishment of the Abyei Area Administration, the Abyei Police Service and the Abyei Legislature, in accordance with the 20 June 2011 Agreement.

36. The security situation in Abyei remains extremely fragile, as do relations between the various communities in the area. These problems are exacerbated by the widespread prevalence of arms. I strongly urge both parties to take concrete steps to expedite the disarmament of communities in Abyei in order to ensure sustainable peace and harmony in the area, in accordance with the 3 May 2013 decision of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee to turn Abyei into a weapon-free area.

37. The Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan are both responsible for the implementation of their agreement. In particular, they must prevent the entry of armed elements into the Abyei Area. I call on both Governments to fully cooperate with the African Union-led joint investigation into the 4 May incident, and to ensure that its conclusions and recommendations are fully implemented in order to avoid the reoccurrence of such incidents.

38. With respect to the implementation of the proposals of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel of 27 September 2012 for the resolution of the final status of Abyei, I call on the parties to immediately communicate to the Implementation Panel the names of their representatives for a new round of consultations.

39. The continued presence of the Sudan police in the Diffra oil complex undermines the ability of UNISFA to maintain security in the area. It is critical that the Government of the Sudan redeploy this force outside of the Abyei Area, in accordance with the 20 June 2011 Agreement.

40. It is also imperative that confidence be built between the Sudan and South Sudan. I call upon the two countries to restore their dialogue mechanisms, including the Area Joint Oversight Committee and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, and to resume discussions under the aegis of the African Union and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. These instruments are vital to building trust among the communities and ensuring the speedy implementation of agreements between the parties. I urge the parties to return to the table to negotiate a political settlement to all outstanding issues relating to the Abyei Area.

41. I would like to commend the work of my Special Envoy, Haile Menkerios, and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel led by President Thabo Mbeki. I also wish to express my appreciation for their sustained efforts to assist the parties in resolving their issues. In addition, I wish to thank the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major-General Yohannes Tesfamariam, and his staff in UNISFA for their continued efforts to enhance peace and stability in the Abyei Area, despite myriad challenges, and to support both parties in the implementation of their security agreements.

Annex I

Composition of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei military component (including the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism)

Country	*Description*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Benin	Contingent troop	1		1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Brazil	Experts on mission	3		5
	Contingent troop	2		
Cambodia	Experts on mission	3		3
Ecuador	Contingent troop	1		1
Ethiopia	Experts on mission	68	10	3 883
	Contingent troop	3 598	207	
Ghana	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Guatemala	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
India	Contingent troop	2		2
Indonesia	Contingent troop	1		1
Kyrgyzstan	Experts on mission	1		1
Mongolia	Experts on mission	2		2
Namibia	Experts on mission	1		4
	Contingent troop	3		
Nepal	Experts on mission	1		1
Nigeria	Contingent troop	3		3
Paraguay	Experts on mission	1		1
Peru	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Philippines	Contingent troop	1		1
Russian Federation	Experts on mission	1		3
	Contingent troop	2		
Rwanda	Experts on mission	1		3
	Contingent troop	2		
Sierra Leone	Experts on mission	2		2
Sri Lanka	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Ukraine	Experts on mission	4		6
	Contingent troop	2		

Country	*Description*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
United Republic of Tanzania	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Uruguay	Contingent troop	1		1
Zambia	Contingent troop	1		1
Zimbabwe	Contingent troop	1		1
Total		**3 721**	**217**	**3 938**

Annex II

Deployment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei